

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 23, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 13, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 72

Introduced by Senator Maldonado
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Blakeslee)

January 13, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 72, as amended, Maldonado. Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 101 in San Luis Obispo County as the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing that special designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon was born on October 1,
- 2 1915, in Chandler, Arizona, and was one of 10 children born to
- 3 George and Josephine Sturgeon; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon attended schools in Paso
- 5 Robles and followed in his father's footsteps as a milk distributor
- 6 in San Luis Obispo County for ~~12~~ 20 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the Paso Robles
2 City Council for eight years and as the Mayor of the City of Paso
3 Robles for three years; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1961, Vernon L. Sturgeon was elected to the
5 State Senate for Senate District 29, and served in the Legislature
6 until 1966, when that district was reapportioned; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1966, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon became a
8 key advisor to Governor Ronald Reagan ~~as~~ *and, in 1967, became*
9 the Governor's Legislative Liaison Officer, and also *served* as
10 Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was appointed by
12 Governor Reagan to the Public Utilities Commission in 1969,
13 and was later reappointed by Governor Jerry Brown, making him
14 one of the few people to be appointed to the same position by
15 both governors. Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the
16 commission until 1979, which included a three-year term as
17 president of the commission; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was a philanthropist
19 who, while a milk distributor, provided milk to those who could
20 not afford to pay for it; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon played a significant
22 role in securing the temporary site for the original Cuesta
23 College, and was instrumental in securing funds for a number of
24 projects ~~and at~~ California Polytechnic University, San Luis
25 Obispo. Also, through his efforts, the library at Hearst Castle was
26 made available to University of California students for research;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon died on November 7,
29 2004, ~~and was survived by his wife, Edythe Sturgeon,~~ *was*
30 *preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Esther, in 1990, and*
31 *was survived by their* daughters Elaine Healey and Carolyn
32 Rexius, son Rick Sturgeon, brother Wilmer Sturgeon, sister
33 Mildred Barclay, eight grandchildren, and 11
34 great-grandchildren; and

35 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon carried the
36 appropriations bill in the Senate for funding the construction of
37 State Highway Route 46 from Paso Robles to the coast in San
38 Luis Obispo County; and

39 WHEREAS, It would be a fitting tribute to Senator Vernon L.
40 Sturgeon to name a portion of State Highway Route 101 between

1 the Cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero in San Luis Obispo
2 County as the “Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway”; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
5 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby officially
6 designates that portion of State Highway Route 101 between
7 Spring Street in Paso Robles and Santa Barbara Road in
8 Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County, as the Vernon L.
9 Sturgeon Memorial Highway; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested
11 to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers,
12 consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway
13 system, showing this special designation, and upon receiving
14 donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to
15 erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
17 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
18 author for appropriate distribution.